

WATERLOGS

OCTOBER 2014



The Bay of Quinte is a healthy and vibrant ecosystem. The RAP is developing long-term monitoring and management strategies to ensure it remains this way for the future.

TIMES THEY ARE A CHANGIN'

When the Bay of Quinte was designated an Area of Concern it had 11 impaired environmental issues. Today, 3 of those issues are meeting the scientific conditions necessary to start the process of removing the impaired designation. The process will take a couple of years to complete, as reports must be written, peer review needs to happen, all levels of government must have input, and there needs to be public consultation. The 3 issues are: Degradation of fish and wildlife populations, Loss of fish and wildlife habitat, and Degradation of benthos. These issues were identified as impaired because, although fish populations were self-reproducing, they were not diverse. Fish habitat had been compromised due to excess phosphorus, which decreased water clarity, preventing the underwater plants from growing. Coastal wetland and shoreline habitats were destroyed by human activities, and the benthos (underwater bugs) favoured more pollution tolerant species. Over the years, there have been many positive changes.

FISH HABITAT - Fish habitat has increased in the Bay of Quinte due to fisheries management, improved habitat, and reduced phosphorus levels.

80%

Bay of Quinte fish habitat gets above an 80% ranking when compared to 39 other sites around Lake Ontario.

FROGS AND WETLAND BIRDS - Coastal wetlands are homes for fish, frogs, and birds - to keep these populations healthy we need to ensure we don't lose any more wetlands.

SAV = Submerged Aquatic Vegetation
30% of the upper Bay has SAV coverage.

Reduced phosphorus levels have increased water clarity, helping underwater plants to grow providing homes for prey fish and hunting grounds for predators.



FISH POPULATIONS - The Bay of Quinte fishery has a variety of species from smaller prey fish like: minnows, perch, and sunfish to large predators like: walleye, bass, and pike.

20% (or greater) of all the fish in the Bay need to be predators.

OSPREYS - The return of a top predator like the Ospreys, and their successful nesting, is a sign the Bay's food chain is healthy.

BENTHOS = UNDERWATER BUGS - The types of underwater bugs found in the Bay tells us about the quality of the water.

Bugs requiring good water quality are present in the Bay.

Visit our web site to view the new videos explaining these 3 environmental issues.

www.bqrap.ca

Healthy Bay • Healthy Community

In partnership locally with Lower Trent Conservation and Quinte Conservation